



## **THE BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT OF THE NATIONAL SPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUCTURE (NSDI)**



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### **WHERE IS THE BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?**

The Baltimore Police Department headquarters, located at 601 East Fayette Street in Baltimore, Maryland, the Department is responsible for improving public safety in the city of Baltimore. The Department works to reduce the crime rate within its borders, arrest felons, and reduce its citizens' fear of crime. The department consists of nine districts, each of which is headed by a district commander. The Police Commissioner holds the district commanders directly accountable for increases and decreases in crime in their respective districts.

In 1998 – the latest year for which national statistics are available – among the 30 most populous cities, Baltimore ranked as the second-most violent city in America. However, Mayor Martin O'Malley and Police Commissioner Edward T. Norris had plans to improve public safety in the city of Baltimore. On April 5, 2000, the two leaders revealed a wide-scale plan that they implemented in order to help the city drastically reduce its crime rates. In the report, called *"A Plan of Action for Transforming the Baltimore Police Department into a High Performance Organization,"* Police Commissioner Norris states, "We will win the fight against crime while we win the hearts and minds and trust of the citizens we serve."

### **WHO ARE THE PARTNERS IN THE BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT PROJECT?**

The project partners include the Baltimore Police Department; the GIS Staff, Criminal Division, U.S. Department of Justice; and the National Partnership for Reinventing Government.

### **HOW THE BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE CRIMINAL DIVISION APPROACHED THE PROJECT**

In an effort to fight crime on a regional basis, the Baltimore Police Department and the Criminal Division joined forces to partner with 12 other police departments in the state of Maryland. Using both the standardized, regional crime incident database and the Regional Crime Analysis Geographic Information System (RCAGIS), developed by the Criminal Division, United States Department of Justice, the police departments are able to share crime data geo-spatially for a large regional area. The Department believed data would be used to make better decisions in the area by using improved crime analysis, mapping, and reporting tools and capabilities. Their project proved them right.

### **WHAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED BY THE BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT NSDI DEMONSTRATION PROJECT?**

In 1998, the Geographic Information Systems Staff from the Criminal Division, U.S. Department of Justice met with the partnered police departments in the Baltimore, Maryland area to discuss how it could help them fight crime. Over the next 18 months, the agencies successfully and jointly planned, developed, and implemented RCAGIS, utilizing the GIS Staff's experience in developing GIS-based crime analysis systems and the police departments' information sharing infrastructure.

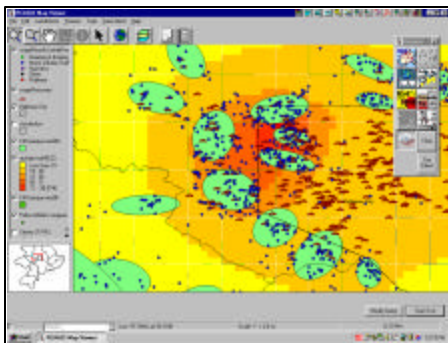
The backbone of the RCAGIS and the Commissioner's accountability program lie in the agencies' actions to commitment to share information internally and with its neighboring police departments. As an agency that is committed to drastically reducing crime and sharing information, the Baltimore Police Department became the first police department in the Baltimore, Maryland and Washington, DC area to begin developing National Spatial Data Infrastructure-compliant metadata for its geographic data. The department aims to become a model department for reducing crime, judiciously applying technology to strategic and tactical initiatives, and developing and using metadata when sharing geographic data.

## WHO HAS BENEFITED FROM THE BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT NSDI DEMONSTRATION PROJECT?

The Baltimore Police Department's anti-crime initiative impact all citizens who live in, work in, visit, or travel through the city of Baltimore. Its anti-crime initiatives also benefit citizens in its neighboring jurisdictions, through its participation in the regional efforts to fight crime and share information. The sharing of information and the wise application of technology will prove instrumental to the department's efforts. The Baltimore Police Department is a model agency, demonstrating that the use of metadata and the use of sophisticated crime analysis, mapping, and reporting applications such as RCAGIS are extremely beneficial to public safety. The Baltimore Police Department's efforts will benefit citizens in the greater Baltimore area and the law enforcement efforts of other departments across the country and around the world.

## WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OF THE BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT?

The final version of RCAGIS was delivered to the Baltimore Police Department, and other departments in the area, on April 3, 2000. The Department received metadata training in mid-1999 and has been developing and using metadata for its geographic data for several months. The crime mapping application and its source code can be downloaded from the Criminal Division's home page at: [www.usdoj.gov/criminal/gis/rcagishome.htm](http://www.usdoj.gov/criminal/gis/rcagishome.htm).



RCAGIS SAMPLE  
Crime Alert Notice  
CRIME BULLETIN

\*\*\* PLEASE POST AND READ AT ROUG CALL \*\*\*

Crime Alert No: 90000  
Type Alert Notice: 000000

DATE: June 15, 1999

SUBJECT: (Criminal/Offense/Location/Type/Status)

SUMMARY: A crime alert is being issued to all law enforcement agencies in the Baltimore area regarding a possible threat to the life of a person in the area.

DATA & TIMES:

DATE	U.S. TIMEZONE	ABSTRACT	TIME	DATE
06/15/99	EST	06/15/99	06:00	06/15/99
06/15/99	EST	06/15/99	06:00	06/15/99
06/15/99	EST	06/15/99	06:00	06/15/99

NOTE: The purpose of this notice is to alert law enforcement agencies in the Baltimore area to a possible threat to the life of a person in the area. It is not intended to be used as a threat or to cause panic. The report is for the use of law enforcement agencies only.

SUBJECT: (Criminal/Offense/Location/Type/Status)